

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing system for printing a document having at least one page described in a page description language, comprising:

- 5 a printer;
a page description language decomposer for converting the document data into at least one image object;
a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected image object to be printed by said printer; and
10 a printer control device for retrieving the printer-independent print-quality characteristics and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with the printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

2. The printing system of claim 1, wherein each image object has an object type and the printer-independent print-quality characteristics are associated with object type.

3. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a control for invoking said first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.

4. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said user interface further includes a second option for associating object descriptors with a selected object type and wherein, responsive to selection of an object descriptor, said first option associates printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.

5. The printing system of claim 4, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a first control for invoking an option of automatically associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics in accordance with a

set of predetermined associations and a second control for manually associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

5 6. The printing system of claim 4, further comprising a third option for defining a custom object descriptor.

 7. The printing system of claim 5, further comprising a third option for saving a set of associations.

10 8. The printing system of claim 7, further comprising a fourth option for loading said saved set of associations.

 9. The printing system of claim 5, further comprising a fifth option for selecting a default configuration of associations.

15 10. The printing system of claim 1, further comprising a second user interface having a control for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions.

20 11. The printing system of claim 10, wherein the second user interface includes a second control for invoking an option of automatically associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a third control for manually associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with printer-dependent imaging actions.

25 12. The printing system of claim 11, wherein the second user interface further includes a fourth control for defining a custom printer-independent print-quality characteristic and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with said custom printer-independent print-quality characteristic.

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